## Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

0908

July 23, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are concerned about the FCC's recent expansive interpretation of the "program carriage" rules. Expanding video regulation in the current environment ignores the realities of today's competitive marketplace.

In today's video market, cable operators compete with satellite operators, telecommunications providers offering video, over-the-air broadcasters, online streaming video and online video distributors such as Netflix, Hulu and Roku. Cable operators must make reasonable business decisions about which programming services offer the right price and value for their subscribers. Like any business operating in a competitive market, they need flexibility to select programming that is of interest to their consumers and to package that programming in a way that enhances consumer choice and reduces cost.

This is a much different market from 1992 when Congress first enacted the program carriage provisions. Those provisions restrict the ability of cable operators to freely negotiate with unaffiliated cable programmers. That may have made sense in 1992 when cable dominated the pay-TV market with regard to both distribution and programming. Today's market is much more competitive in both respects. The FCC's rules should reflect those changes rather than expand the reach of regulations that have outlived their purpose.

The FCC's recent interpretation of the program carriage rules, however, could be read to enable programmers effectively to force their way on to a cable operator's system by merely alleging that their programming is similar enough to the operator's affiliated programming, rather than showing that there has been anticompetitive discrimination.

This is a broad expansion of the FCC's program carriage rules and procedures. But more important, it is consumers who will ultimately bear the brunt of these expanded regulations through higher costs. In a difficult economy, consumers are looking for ways to trim their budgets.

Letter to the Honorable Julius Genachowski Page 2

Cable operators need the flexibility to respond, or risk losing their consumers. They also should not be forced to spend millions of dollars defending against groundless allegations.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely, Greg Walden Fred Upton Chairman Chairman Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee on Energy and Commerce

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The Honorable Henry A Wayman R	Sue Myrich

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

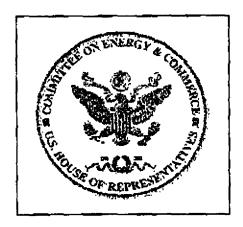
## Letter to the Honorable Julius Genachowski Page 4

## **Signatories**

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Greg Walden Fred Upton Leonard Lance Cory Gardner Marsha Blackburn Mary Bono Mack Cynthia Lummis David McKinley Michael Pompeo Pete Olson Brett Guthrie Gregg Harper Mike Rogers (MI) John Sullivan Steve Scalise Phil Gingrey Michael Grimm Tim Murphy Michael C. Burgess Ed Whitfield

Brian Bilbray Jim Matheson
Cathy McMorris Rodgers Mike Ross
Denny Rehlberg John Shimkus
Charles Bass Christopher Smith
Cliff Stearns Lee Terry
Adam Kinzinger Robert E. Latta
Joseph Pitts Sue Myrick



Committee on Energy and Commerce Republican Office

U.S. House of Representatives 2125 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: (202) 225-2927 Fax: (202) 225-1919

Te: Mr. Greg Guice, Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Communications Commission for Chairman Julius Genachowski, Federal Communications Commission

From: Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce Rep. Greg Walden; Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Others

Fatc: (202) 418-2806

Date: July 23, 2012

Phone:

Pages: 5 (Including cover)

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Fred Upton Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

The Commission issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in 2011, seeking comment on a variety of revisions to the program carriage rules in order to improve Commission procedures and further advance the goals of Section 616. Your letter adds a valuable contribution to the Commission's consideration of this issue.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Charles Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bass:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Brian Bilbray
U.S. House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bilbray:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Mary Bono Mack
U.S. House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bono Mack:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gardner:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Sincerely.



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Phil Gingrey
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gingrey:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Michael Grimm
U.S. House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grimm:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
308 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Gregg Harper
U.S. House of Representatives
307 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Harper:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
U.S. House of Representatives
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lance:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Robert E. Latta U.S. House of Representatives 1323 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis U.S. House of Representatives 113 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lummis:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Jim Matheson U.S. House of Representatives 2434 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Matheson:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable David B. McKinley U.S. House of Representatives 313 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers U.S. House of Representatives 2421 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Tim Murphy U.S. House of Representatives 322 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Sue Myrick U.S. House of Representatives 230 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Myrick:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Pete Olson U.S. House of Representatives 312 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts U.S. House of Representatives 420 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Mike Pompeo U.S. House of Representatives 107 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pompeo:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Denny Rehberg U.S. House of Representatives 2448 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rehberg:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Mike Rogers U.S. House of Representatives 133 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

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Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable Mike Ross U.S. House of Representatives 2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ross:

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Steve Scalise U.S. House of Representatives 429 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scalise:

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Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable John M. Shimkus U.S. House of Representatives 2452 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



September 27, 2012

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith U.S. House of Representatives 2373 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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Sincerely,

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Cliff Stearns U.S. House of Representatives 2306 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stearns:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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September 27, 2012

The Honorable John Sullivan U.S. House of Representatives 434 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Lee Terry U.S. House of Representatives 2331 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Terry:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Ed Whitfield U.S. House of Representatives 2368 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Whitfield:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the Commission's program carriage rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Under the rules it has adopted implementing Section 616 of the Communications Act, the Commission considers complaints of program carriage discrimination on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the particular facts of each complaint. The statute and the Commission's rules prohibit affiliation-based discrimination that unreasonably restrains the ability of unaffiliated networks to compete fairly. Thus, a showing of anticompetitive discrimination is required in every case.

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